Alana Parkes

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PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Exhibit and Content Developer
Museum of Science, Boston, MA **1999 – present**

Responsible for development of exhibitions, including defining overall scope of exhibit within given parameters, researching content, developing educational goals, designing visitor experience, developing interactive components, evaluating components with visitors and incorporating their feedback, and writing printed and audio label copy. Mentor new exhibit developers. Areas of expertise include universal design, formative evaluation, and family learning. Selected projects include:

The Science Behind Pixar, opened 2015
This 10,000 sq. ft. travelling exhibit introduces visitors to the computer science, math, and science concepts behind Pixar's animated movies. The exhibit includes 30 physical and screen-based interactives that will allow visitors will experience the process by which Pixar creates believable virtual three-dimensional worlds.

Conserve @ Home, opened 2012
This 2,000 sq. ft. exhibit focuses on ways visitors can save energy in their homes. Additional responsibilities included producing a series of videos of local residents.

Math Moves, opened 2012
This 1,000 sq. ft. exhibit provides kinesthetic components that engage 6–12-year-olds and their families on the topics of ratio and proportion. Additional responsibilities included project manager for internal team and close collaboration with three other institutions under the leadership of the Science Museum of Minnesota.

Cosmic Light, opened 2010
This 1,000 sq. ft. exhibit for the lobby of the Planetarium introduces visitors to the universe. Additional responsibilities included close collaboration with content experts to create a permanent exhibit the supports the learning goals of the changing planetarium shows.

Take a Closer Look, opened 2008
This 3,000 sq. ft. exhibit focuses on the scientific skill of observation. Additional responsibilities included using summative and other evaluation data to completely refurbish an older exhibit. Reorganized the structure of the exhibit to better communicate the original goals to visitors. Incorporated many existing components, added new ones where needed.

Lecturer
Harvard Extension School, Museum Studies Program, Cambridge, MA **2004 – 2005**

Co-taught the Visitor Studies course (MUSE E-123) during the Spring 2004 and Spring 2005 semesters. Determined course structure, prepared lectures, coordinated field sites, graded assignments, and oversaw student projects in which they designed instruments and collected and analyzed data.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE (continued)

Research Associate
TERC, Cambridge, MA **1997 – 2002**

Conducted research and did product development for several formal and informal education projects. Researched content, modified game design based on research and parent feedback, helped develop and lead sessions introducing parents to games. Conducted and analyzed live and videotaped observations. Conducted and analyzed assessments of children's math skills. Evaluated games for educational value, mathematical content, and equity issues. Developed a web site in HTML. Projects include: Math Pack for Families and Through the Glass Wall (NSF #REC-9555641).

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS and PRESENTATIONS

August 2015. A. Parkes. "STEAM and *The Science Behind Pixar*." Keynote presentation at the Massachusetts School Library Association and Massachusetts Computer Using Educators joint conference. Concord, MA.

March/April 2015. T. Wright & A. Parkes. Exploring connections between physical and mathematical knowledge in science museums. *Informal Learning Review*, 131: 16–21.

October 2011. J. Newlin, R. Nemirovsky, T. Rockwell, A Parkes, T. Wright, & R. Griffiths. "Learning math with your body." Session at the Association of Science-Technology Centers Annual Conference, Baltimore, MD.

October 2006. L. Stolow, K. Krafft, J. Mokros, & A. Parkes. "Looking for mathematical questions in science exhibits." Session at the Association of Science-Technology Centers Annual Conference, Louisville, KY.

April 2006. C. Garibay, K. Bertschi, A. Parkes, C. McCallum, & C. Burda. "Involving underserved audiences in exhibit development." Session at the American Association of Museum Annual Conference. Boston, MA.

2005. C. Reich & A. Parkes. How the affordances of materials affect visitors' interactions with an exhibit. *Visitor Studies Today*, 8(2): 13–17.

June 2004. D. Bronstein, S. Laborde, R. Golder, A. Parkes & J. Sacco. "Graphic design and interpretive writing 101: A workshop for beginners." One-day workshop sponsored by the New England Museum Association, Lowell, MA.

EDUCATION

Harvard Extension — Cambridge, MA
Certificate of Museum Studies

University of Massachusetts — Amherst, MA
M.Ed., Math/English/Science Technology Education Project

Earlham College — Richmond, IN
B.A., Mathematics